The Government have reviewed the situation arising out of a series of such blasts in the capital during the year. It has been decided to improve the intelligence collection through better coordinaiton between police and intelligence agencies and also to seek closer public participation in detecting such bombs and apprehending the culprits.

Rise in crime rate in R.K. Puram

64. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rising crime rate in various sectors of R.K. Puram, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, sector-wise;

(c) the details of the police assistance booths, sector-wise, at present functioning in R.K. Puram, New Delhi;

(d) the sectors in R.K. Puram still wituhout such police assistance booths; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to provide police assistance booths in those remaining sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) There has been a slight increase in the crime rate in R.K. Puram area under the heads of snatching, burglary, pick-pocketing, servant-theft, accidents, etc. However, the crime rate under the heads of decoity, attempt to murder, robbery, motor vehicle theft, hurts, etc, has registered a decline. The sector-wise details are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 182 Annexure No. 2]

(c) and (d) There is no polic assistance booth in any of the sectors of R.K. Puram and the area is covered by the beat patrolling-PCR Vans. In addition, there is a police post located in Sector IV.

(e) The existing police arrangements are considered adequate for the present.

Manipulation of Evidence by CFSl Officials

65. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem under the caption 'Forensic experts shady acts detected' which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 27th August, 1997;

(b) whether several cases of manipulaiton of scientific evidence by Central forensic Science Laboratory Officials have been detected by Central Bureau of Investigation and the agency has compiled a list of officers of CFSL who have allegedly tampered with evidence and manipulated reports; and

(c) if so, the action taken against guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered five cases against seven officials of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory of the Central Bureau of Investigation on the allegations of manipulation of scientific evidence.

(c) Two officials are facing trial in the courts, departmental proceedings have been initiated against three officials, case against one officer is under investigation and in the case of one official no action could be taken for want of evidence.

Pending applications of freedom fighters pensions

66. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of freedom fighters' pension cases pending for more than five years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to dispose of the pending cases?